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IAI- Prepare cable which sends formal note to be used by Embassy a week after subject is again raised informally by Embassy w/MFA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

NSF

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

February 3, 1978

TO: NEA - Mr. Veliotes

THROUGH: NEA/IAI - Walter B. Smith II

FROM: NEA/IAI - Michael G. Anderson

SUBJECT: Formal Approach to Israelis on USS Liberty Claim

Attached are copies of the three most recent cables on the subject of our claim against Israel for $7.3 million in compensation for damages to the USS Liberty.

It has been three weeks since this was raised by Ambassador Lewis with Evron. Evron promised an early response. Several courses of action are now open to us:

1. Wait a while longer. Evron and the MFA have been very busy with the Middle East peace negotiations and it may not have been possible for them to come up with a response to our informal approaches.

2. Ask Ambassador Lewis to raise the matter again with Evron.

3. Draft a diplomatic note with L/C and cable it to the Embassy for their comments.

4. Send formal note to Embassy with instructions to Ambassador to deliver it personally -- or to have it delivered at the level he feels appropriate -- to the MFA.

It is possible that the Israelis will read a sinister motive into our raising this matter again after all these years. On the other hand, we do have an obligation to press what we consider to be an outstanding claim, and there is some Congressional interest in the matter (e.g., recent exchange of letters with Senator Adlai Stevenson).

Please let us know how you wish to proceed.

Attachments:
1. U.S.DEL Cairo 19
2. State 7098
3. Tel Aviv 474

Drafted:NEA/IAI:MGAnderson:lhw
2/3/78 x21686

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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